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1873. The following are typical plants of this region. Of M. Blanche's collection; *Silene gonocalyx*, *Habrosia spinulifera*; *Althæa rufescens*; *Haplóphyllum fruticosum*; *Astragalus tribuloides*; *Dipterocoma pusilla*; *Stipa Ehrenbergii*. Of those reported by Prof. Paine there are several described as new species; *Silene brevipes*; *Trigonella minima*; *Trifolium velivolum*; *Cephalaria tenella*; *Cerinthopsis foliosa*; *Phelipæa incana*; *Salvia Peratica*; *Plantago Cretica*,  $\beta$ . *tomentella*; *Plantago Phaeopis*; *Gagea monticola*; *Allium lachnophyllum*; *Carex eremitica*; *Bromus argyphæus*. Further study and extensive collections alone can determine the peculiarities of the desert flora.

In its general characteristics, climatic and botanical, strong resemblances may be traced between Syria and California. The same wet winters and dry summers, with breezes from a western sea, blowing over mountains, mostly bare of forests, and plains fertile only through irrigation; the same hot sunshine, and the proximity of lofty mountains to semi-tropical valleys, produce analogies in vegetable life, which the writer hopes to trace in a subsequent paper. Without doubt, as the range of our knowledge in Geology and Botany increases, the knowledge of the lines of descent and analogy will extend, not merely to species and varieties, but to the mode of the formation of the continents, and the reasons for the distribution of plants, which are deprived of volition in their establishment and diffusion, as well as for the migrations of animals, which superadd to organic life, some degree of self-determined will.

§ 156. **International Botanical and Horticultural Congress.**—The Botanical Society and the Central Horticultural Society of France, propose to hold, during the Paris Exposition of 1878, a Botanical and Horticultural Congress, at Paris, from August 16th to the 22d, inclusive. Botanists of all countries are invited, and those who propose to be present at the Congress, are requested to announce their intention to M. A. Lavallee, President of the "Commission of Organization," Paris. In the list of members of the Commission are the well-known names of Baillon, Planchon, Duchatre, Cosson, and other French botanists, with those of equally prominent horticulturists.

The Commission desire that the widest possible publicity be given to the proposed plan. G. T.

§ 157. **Botanical Papers.**—Doct. A. Engler, of the Botanic Garden of Munich, Bavaria, is one the Editors of Dr. Just's "Annual Review." He complains that, by the usual channels, contributions and publications are sometimes very long in reaching him, and requests that the authors of papers and botanical notes forward copies of their publications directly to him. His special departments are: the geographical distribution of plants, and the morphology and the systematic botany of Phanerogamous plants. G. T.

§ 158. **Suffolk County Notes.**—I was interested in a note, Upon the appearance and disappearance of plants, by Mr. Edwards, in a recent No. of the BULLETIN. I have had similar experience, though mine has not been so pleasant. I have to record more the disap-